



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546



Office of the
Commissioner

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Public Hearing – February 4, 2013
Transportation Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Jim Redeker
Department of Transportation

Proposed S.B. 636 - An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study the State's Transportation Plans.

The Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) does not believe a task force to study the state's transportation plans is warranted at this time and offers the following comments.

ConnDOT has taken a thorough look at all the planning documents it produces and has identified several that are overlapping, duplicative and sometimes have conflicting recommendations and policies. These documents include the Master Transportation Plan (MTP), the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRP), the Five-Year Capital Plan, and Connecticut's Transportation Strategy [a report of the Transportation Strategy Board (TSB)]. With the exception of the Five-Year Capital Plan, each is mandated by a different state or federal requirement, and there is no overarching framework linking these documents together. Each requires a great deal of time, effort, and financial resources to prepare.

The current structure and process is an inefficient use of resources and is confusing. More importantly, it does not lead to a single, fully integrated transportation vision or plan. The process needs to be simplified and reorganized into a more rational and efficient one that results in better planning, less duplication, and requires fewer resources to complete. At the same time, the process needs to:

1. continue to comply with the requirements of federal funding programs;
2. enhance opportunities for stakeholder involvement in the visioning and planning process;
3. include a method for regularly informing the Governor, Legislature, and all stakeholders on progress toward achieving the vision; and
4. be integrated with DOT's current performance measures system to fit with recently passed Federal legislation

The Department is currently working on streamlining the process, specifically, by introducing legislation to eliminate the Master Transportation Plan; consolidating the Long Range Transportation Plan with the Transportation Strategy Board Report; and retaining and improving the Five-Year Capital Plan.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at (860) 594-3013.